

A LIST OF THE BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS RECORDED FROM THE ISLE OF MAY *

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THIS list has been compiled from sources listed in the references, along with a few unpublished observations from the Bird Observatory records. The naming and arrangement follow the *Indexed Check-List of the British Lepidoptera* by I. R. P. Heslop (Watkins and Doncaster, London, 1947).

BUTTERFLIES

PIERIDAE

1. *Pieris brassicae* (Large Garden White). Sometimes breeds. Not uncommon as a migrant.
2. *Pieris rapae* (Small Garden White). Not uncommon.
3. *Pieris napi* (Green-veined White). Not uncommon. Can occur only as a migrant, as its food plants are absent.

NYMPHALIDAE

4. *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell). Common; chiefly a migrant but sometimes breeding.
5. *Nymphalis io* (Peacock). Immigrant. Two on 6th September 1949 (Baxter and Rintoul).
6. *Vanessa cardui* (Painted Lady). Numerous occurrences, including 9 on the afternoon of 16th August 1912; "that they were immigrants from abroad, I have no doubt" (Evans, 1912); 3 on 19th September 1920, "2 quite perfect and to all appearances newly hatched, 1 slightly worn" (Rintoul and Baxter); several on 29th August 1933, "all in beautiful condition, no rubbed or ragged specimens among them" (Grimshaw).
7. *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral). Many records, including 8-9 on 19th September 1920 (Rintoul and Baxter), 10 in beautiful condition on 30th September 1929 (Baxter),

* Received 1st December 1956

and about 20 on 2nd September 1933 (Grimshaw). A common immigrant in Scotland.

SATYRIDAE

8. *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow-Brown). One caught near the Low Light in July 1936, "probably driven over by wind" (Callan).

LYCAENIDAE

9. *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue). One seen in the Holyman's Road in July 1936, "probably driven over by wind" (Callan).

All nine butterflies so far reported from the Isle of May are known to migrate. The garden-whites are well-established British species whose populations are reinforced regularly by vast swarms from the Continent. The same is true to a smaller extent of the green-veined white and the lesser tortoiseshell. The red admiral is an example of a common British butterfly which could not maintain itself in this country without frequent influxes from abroad. This applies also to the painted lady; although its migrations are not so regular, considerable numbers appear every year. The peacock is extending its range in Britain, but is also a partial migrant. Both the meadow-brown and the common blue have been captured at light-vessels as migrants.

MOTHS

SPHINGIDAE

10. *Herse convolvuli* (Convolvulus Hawk). A migrant from the Continent. One male on 30th August 1914 "may be assumed to have crossed the North Sea" (Evans, 1914-15).

11. *Macroglossum stellatarum* (Humming-bird Hawk). One on 15th June 1899 (Evans, 1899). A moth whose existence in Britain depends on migration from southern France in spring and summer.

NOTODONTIDAE

12. *Cerura vinula* (Puss). One male in the third week of April 1912.

13. *Pheosia tremula* (Greater Swallow Prominent). One male on 1st June 1911.

ARCTIIDAE

14. *Spilosoma lubricipeda* (White Ermine). Three males on 1st June 1911.

15. *Arctia caja* (Garden Tiger). One male on 25th July 1912 and several more recent records, including 1 on 15th July 1956.

16. *Callimorpha jacobaeae* (Cinnabar). One female on 7th June 1911; 1 male on 27th May 1912. A resident British species which may also reach our shores as a migrant.

CARADRINIDAE

17. *Cryphia perla* (Marbled Beau). One male in mid-July 1914.

18. *Cryphia muralis* (Marbled Vert). One at light in July 1936 (Callan).

19. *Agrotis segetum* (Turnip Dart). Several records.

20. *Agrotis exclamationis* (Heart and Dart). Several records.

21. *Agrotis ipsilon* (Dark Dart). Many records. The British population of this moth is much reinforced by immigration.

22. *Euxoa nigricans* (Garden Dart). Several records.

23. *Euxoa tritici* (White-line Dart). Several records.

24. *Euxoa obelisca* (Square-spot Dart). A good many records.

25. *Lycophotia varia* (True Lovers' Knot). Several records.

26. *Peridroma porphyrea* (Pearly Underwing). One male and one female at the lantern on 26th and 27th September 1913. Another moth whose British population is much augmented by immigration.

27. *Ammogrotis lucerneae* (Northern Rustic). Many records from the light.

28. *Graphiphora augur* (Double Dart). One female in mid-July 1914.

29. *Amathes baja* (Dotted Clay). Single males in 1913 and 1914.

30. *Amathes c-nigrum* (Setaceous Hebrew-character). Several records.

31. *Amathes xanthographa* (Square-spot Rustic). An abundant species; many records of large numbers at the light.

32. *Diarsia festiva* (Common Ingrailed Clay). Several records, all of var. *conflua* (Evans, 1914-15).

33. *Diarsia rubi* (Small Square-spot). One female in the latter part of July 1914.
34. *Ochropleura plecta* (Flame Shoulder). Three occurrences in 1913 and 1914.
35. *Axylia putris* (Flame Rustic). One female in the second half of June 1914.
36. *Triphaena comes* (Lesser Yellow-underwing). Several records.
37. *Triphaena pronuba* (Common Yellow-underwing). A frequent visitor to the lantern but not in large numbers (Evans, 1914-15).
38. *Triphaena janthina* (Lesser-bordered Yellow-underwing). Several records, all of males.
39. *Mamestra brassicae* (Cabbage Dot). A good many records.
40. *Melanchnra persicariae* (White Dot). One at the lantern on 9th September 1907 (Baxter).
41. *Diataraxia oleracea* (Bright-line Brown-eye). Several records.
42. *Hadena nana* (Light Shears). Several records.
43. *Hadena conspersa* (Common Marbled Coronet). Many records.
44. *Ceraapteryx graminis* (Antler). Many occurrences. Resident.
45. *Eumichtis adusta* (Dark Brocade). Several records.
46. *Luperina testacea* (Flounced Rustic). A good many records.
47. *Thalpophila matura* (Straw Underwing). One female in the third week of July 1914.
48. *Procus strigilis* (Marbled Minor). One male (dark variety) in July 1914.
49. *Procus fasciuncula* (Middle-barred Minor). A number of records, all of males.
50. *Apamea obscura* (Dusky Brocade). One male in July 1912.
51. *Apamea sordens* (Rustic Shoulder-knot). One male on 21st June 1914.
52. [*Apamea unanimitis* (Small Clouded Brindle). One at the lantern on 10th September 1907 (Grimshaw). Placed in square brackets because Evans (1914-15) having seen the specimen, which was in poor condition, considered the identification doubtful.]

53. *Apamea secalis* (Common Rustic). A number of records.

54. *Apamea crenata* (Cloud-bordered Brindle). Two in the summer of 1909.

55. *Apamea monoglypha* (Dark Arches). The commonest and most frequent visitor to the lantern, recorded on very many occasions. Numbers are greatest from about mid-July to mid-August, when between one and two hundred have frequently been captured in a night. Both sexes are represented but males predominate (Evans, 1914-15).

56. *Dasytopia templi* (Brindled Ochre). Many records, including large numbers (up to 80 in a night) in 1913.

57. *Antitype chi* (Grey Chi). One male in the third week of September 1912.

58. *Phlogophora meticulosa* (Large Angle-shades). Numerous occurrences.

59. *Celaena haworthii* (Haworth's Crescent). One male on 14th August 1911.

60. *Hydracia micacea* (Rosy Ear). A number of records.

61. *Rhizodra lutosa* (Large Wainscot). Two males on 3rd October 1913.

62. *Leucania pallens* (Common Wainscot.) Several records.

63. *Leucania impura* (Smoky Wainscot). One male and one female in mid-July 1914.

64. *Caradrina morpheus* (Mottled Wainscot). A few caught at sugar in July 1936 (Callan).

65. *Caradrina clavipalpis* (Pale Mottled Willow). Many records.

66. *Petilampa minima* (Small Dotted Buff). A good many occurrences, mostly of males.

67. *Amphipyra tragopoginis* (Mouse Wainscot). A good many records.

68. *Cosmia trapezina* (Dun-bar). One female in the third week of September 1912.

69. *Omphaloscelis lunosa* (Lunar Underwing). A common visitor to the lantern.

70. [*Agrochola lota*. Included in Evans' lists (1914-15) on the authority of Grimshaw, but in fact listed in the latter's paper as *A. macilenta*.]

71. *Agrochola macilenta* (Yellow-line Quaker). One on 26th September 1907 (Grimshaw).

72. *Agrochola circumcellaris* (Brick). A number of records.
73. *Conistra vaccinii* (Common Chestnut). One on 9th September 1907.
74. *Eupsilia transversa* (Satellite). One male on 25th October 1913.
75. *Xylena exsoleta* (Cloudy Sword-grass). One male (very worn) on the night of 8th May 1911; two males in the spring of 1913.
76. *Oxylena vetusta* (Red Sword-grass). One on the night of 14th November 1912.
77. *Cucullia umbratica* (Common Shark). One male on 26th July 1913.

PLUSIIDAE

78. *Polychrisia moneta* (Silver Eight). One in July 1936 (Callan). A colonising species.
79. *Plusia chrysitis* (Common Burnished Brass). One male on the night of 28th July 1911; one male on the night of 12th July 1914. May breed on the island.
80. *Plusia pulchrina* (Beautiful Golden Y). One male on the night of 7th July 1914.
81. *Plusia gamma* (Common Silver Y). As this moth maintains itself in Britain only by immigration, it is not surprising that there are many records of it as a migrant, though it probably breeds on the island also. Its movements are often associated with those of the painted lady butterfly. Evans (1914-15) gives examples of "rushes" at the lantern, for instance in the third week of September 1908, on 26th September 1909, and on 10th and 13th September 1910. Miss Baxter and Miss Rintoul noted "crowds" on 16th September 1908, "hundreds" on 19th September 1920 (mostly perfect specimens) and large numbers on many other occasions. Males as a rule appear at the lantern in greater numbers than females.

GEOMETRIDAE

82. *Lygris testata* (Common Chevron). Two on 23rd September 1907; one in mid-August 1911.
83. *Lygris populata* (Northern Spinach). One specimen obtained in July 1936; "no food plants, therefore must have been driven over in a storm" (Callan).

84. *Dysstroma citrata* (Dark Marbled Carpet). One female on the night of 15th August 1913.
85. *Chloroclysta mista* (Autumn Green Carpet). One male on 26th October 1912; one male on 26th September 1913.
86. *Thera variata* (Grey Spruce Carpet). Four records in the years 1911-13.
87. *Xanthorhoë fluctuata* (Garden Carpet). Much the commonest Geometer at the lantern, occurring from the end of April to the end of September (Evans, 1914-15).
88. *Colostygia didymata* (Small Twin-spot Carpet). One male in the second week of August 1913. Many in July 1936 (Callan).
89. *Oporinia dilutata* (November Carpet). One on 23rd September 1907; one in October 1912; one in September 1914.
90. *Operophtera brumata* (Common Winter). One male on 3rd November 1912; another in December 1912.
91. *Pelurga comitata* (Dark Spinach). A number of records.
92. *Euphyia bilineata* (Yellow Shell). Six in July 1914. Common in July 1936 (Callan).
93. *Lyncometra ocellata* (Purple-bar carpet). One male on the night of 12th July 1914.
94. *Perizoma alchemillata* (Small Rivulet). One on the night of 28th July 1911.
95. *Hydriomena furcata* (July Highflyer). One female on 10th August 1911, at a window.
96. *Eupithecia assimilata* (Currant Pug.) One in mid-June 1911.
97. *Erannis aurantiaria* (Scarce Umber). One in the morning of 16th November 1912.
98. *Erannis defoliaria* (Mottled Umber). One (unbanded variety) in December 1913.
99. *Opisthograptis luteolata* (Sulphur Thorn). One male at the end of June 1910.

PYRALIDAE

100. *Eudoria angustea* (Narrow-winged Grey). Several records.
101. *Scoparia dubitalis* (Hoary Grey). One on 22nd July 1912; one in July 1914.

102. *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Pearl). Two males on the night of 16th September 1914.

103. *Aphomia sociella* (Green-shaded Honey). One female on the night of 12th July 1914.

CRAMBIDAE

104. *Crambus pratellus* (Dark-inlaid Grass-veneer). One on the night of 21st June 1914.

105. *Crambus perlellus* (Yellow Satin Grass-veneer). Several records.

106. *Crambus culmellus* (Straw-coloured Grass-veneer). Several records.

107. *Crambus geniculeus* (Elbow-striped Grass-veneer). One on 13th September 1888.

108. *Crambus tristellus* (Common Grass-veneer). A number of records.

TORTRICIDAE

109. *Pandemis heparana* (Dark Oblique-barred Twist). One male on 16th August 1913.

EUCOSMIDAE

110. *Polychrosis dubitana* (Shore Doubtful Marble). Several on 22nd July 1897.

111. *Endothenia antiquana* (Blotched Marble). One in July 1911 ; one in July 1914.

GELECHIIDAE

112. *Mniophaga desertella* (Common Sandhill Groundling). Recorded in July 1897.

113. *Phthorimaea marmorea* (Beautiful Marbled Groundling). Recorded in July 1897.

OECOPHORIDAE

114. *Endrosis sarcitrella* (White-shouldered Tubic). One on 24th September 1910 ; one in June 1911 ; one in September 1911.

115. *Borkhausenia pseudospretella* (Large Common Tubic). One on 7th June 1911 ; one on 28th July 1910.

116. *Depressaria alstroemeriana* (Alstroemer's Flat-body).
One on 2nd September 1910.

PLUTELLIDAE

117. *Plutella maculipennis* (Grey Diamond-backed Smudge).
One on 20th October 1911.

HEPIALIDAE

118. *Hepialus lupulina* (Common Swift). One on 8th June
1911.

119. *Hepialus humuli* (Ghost Swift). Several records.

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